

Re : A Visitor from Soviet Ukraine to England

Source :

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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KAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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Following is the gist of information obtained from a female visitor from Lvov, Ukr SSR who arrived to Bradford, York's, England early May 1970 to stay there for 6 weeks with her relatives. She is Ukrainian, born 1936 in West Ukraine, married, works as tram-conductor in Lvov, earns about Rubel 120.- per month plus bonus, her husband is a bus conductor, she is a graduate of desiatylitka.

1.

The Visitor knew about arrests and trials of 1965-67 and spoke with great reverence about Chornovil, Switlychny, Dziuba, Osadchy and others. She heard about Dziuba's book but did not read it. In her opinion the West Ukraine still remains the centre of Ukrainian national affairs despite an increase of national consciousness in other parts of Ukraine. She was also of a very high opinion about contemporary youth. According to her young people feel deeply about things Ukrainian and Russification is much less successful than "some ~~authorities~~" would like it to be. In recent years "the Ukrainian pressure" has intensified mainly due to young people's efforts and that brings some results. Thus since two or three years exams of Ukrainian language are obligatory at Lvov Politechnic. Last year "for the first time" since the Visitor was working on trams, there came an instruction from the Ministry in Kiev in Ukrainian. Some Russians employed at Lvov Department demanded it to be translated into Russian but the Director who, by the way, is Russian himself, advised them instead to learn Ukrainian. At one of the meetings following this incident he and some other nachalniks stressed again that "once we eat Ukrainian bread and lard so it's about time we also speak here Ukrainian".

2. According to the visitor, people all over the Soviet Union talk about Chinese menace and consider war with China only as a matter of time. Some think that America will come to the Soviet Union's rescue, others assume that the United States would let both, Russia and China, bleed themselves to death.

3. Since fall 1969 the situation in the Ukraine somewhat worsened as far as supply of consumer goods was concerned. But there was still enough of everything or rather the situation is not so bad as it was on the eve of Khrushchev's removal in 1964.

4. The Visitor knew of no strikes in recent years and did not think they were possible now. On the whole authorities were getting somewhat stricter and people more cautious.

5. The Visitor was surprised the Cardinal Slipyj was "so cautious" about telling the truth in the West about his Church and his own fate in the past. In her view people in the Ukraine would prefer him to be more outspoken on those matters. She did not think this would harm "underground catholics" in the Ukraine.

6. The Visitor accepted several books and magazines (Suchasnist and Ukrainsky Samostiynayk) to read here but stressed that she won't be able to take them with her to Ukraine.